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Territorial University (Washington) Regents' reports

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Report of the Board of Regents of the Territorial University ... <1864>, <1887>

Report of the Territorial University Regents to the Legislative Assembly, <1871>

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Washington (Terr.) University

OF THE

Territorial University Regents

TO THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

ORDERED PRINTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT

OF THE

UNIVERSITY REGENTS.

To the Honorable the Legislative Assembly
of the Territory of Washington:

In consequence of the fact that two of the Regents appointed at the last session of the Legislature failed to qualify, and one member who held over removing from the Territory, the Board is left without a quorum. We will therefore, being simply a minority of the Board, transmit the report of the Treasurer as to the state of the finances, and the report of Prof. John H. Hall, respecting the condition and prospects of the school. Trusting that you may be able to relieve us from further services and appoint a Board of men who will take an active interest in the welfare of the institution,

We remain your obedient servants,

FRANKLIN MATTHIAS,
A. A. DENNY,
Regents.

PROFESSOR HALL'S REPORT.

To the Honorable the Board of Regents of University of Washington Territory :

The approaching meeting of the Legislature of Washington Territory, brings with it to the undersigned the duty of submitting to your honorable body a report of the present condition and future prospects of the University.

Two years ago, the institution which had been closed for some time, was reopened under the charge of the undersigned as President. He found the condition of the institution anything but satisfactory. The numerous changes by resignation or otherwise of the gentlemen under whose charge the department of instruction had been placed, and the consequent irregularity in its operations, led many possessed of sufficient means, to send their children to schools in sister States, which were known to be in successful operation, and which they could attend for any length of time desired without interruption. Others, unable to do this, were unwilling to incur the expense attending the fitting out and sending their children here, until they could feel a confidence that it would prove something more than a mere temporary arrangement. The petty local jealousies of the different points on the Sound, each unwilling to assist in any way in building up a rival point, was a great obstacle to its success. The efforts, though happily unsuccessful, on the part of different denominations to obtain control of the school, and thus make it subserve other ends than those contemplated in its organization, tended to produce a coolness on their part in its support. This state of things has given an opportunity to some who were only temporary residents of our Territory, to use their influence in the different parts in which they happened to be located, to induce per-

sons to patronize denominational schools in other States, at the expense of our own institution. The decreased demand for lumber during the past year, its low price, and the consequently diminished receipts for the principal export of our Territory, the withdrawal of large sums of money from circulation, and its investment in land with the view to colossal fortunes in the future, which has crippled to a greater or less degree all branches of industry, has not been without its effect on our institutions of learning. The land mania seems to have taken possession of large numbers of our people, who have invested their all in this speculation, and hence are unable at present to command the means required to educate their children away from home.

During my first year in this place, a public school building was erected at a cost of some five thousand dollars, the tax for which had been levied the year previous. They have had during the past year an attendance of one hundred and fifty scholars. During the summer the Episcopalians have been making an effort to establish two schools in this place. The rector of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Somers, rented a house which he proposed to occupy as a Young Ladies' Day and Boarding School, and advertised that a building would be erected by September for a boys' school. The former has an attendance of SEVEN, I believe, and the effort towards the latter has so far proved unsuccessful.

Having had an experience as instructor for fifteen years in New York City and different points on the coast, the undersigned did not expect to build up an institution in a Territory as sparsely inhabited as our own, without meeting with many difficulties. These, owing to circumstances, have been greater even than anticipated. The small amount of funds belonging to the institution has not permitted the issuing of catalogues, advertising, etc., by which to keep the people informed of its condition and prospects. These things, taken in connection with the fact that the Board of Regents has had but two acting members, have very materially retarded the progress of the institution, and increased the labors of the undersigned.

ATTENDANCE.

At the reopening of the University, there were but thirty-eight students in attendance. During the past two years, one hundred and ninety-eight have been enrolled. The classification of these has been as follows:

Commercial Department	12
Preparatory	16
Academical	152
Music	14
Modern Languages	4
Total	198

Seventy students, or more than one third of the whole number, were not residents of Seattle. The present session has commenced with fifty students, a better showing than has been made any year previous. The prospects for a large attendance during the winter are very flattering.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

It will be seen from the foregoing statement, that no regular collegiate classes have as yet been formed. The few who desire to take a regular course having connected themselves with other institutions during the time in which the University was closed I take pleasure in calling your attention to the fact that one of these young men has graduated in the past year with the highest honors in the University of California. What an advantage it would be to this institution, if sufficient inducements could be offered to detain such young men here, and not allow their influence to be given to the building up of other schools to the neglect of those at home.

No curriculum of study has been adopted. Several students having expressed a desire to commence a regular course next year, I have prepared the one accompanying this report, which I would respectfully submit to your consideration. I would also call your attention to the fact, that the plan of not insisting

upon an invariable curriculum of study by all the students, but in granting them freedom of choice in the selection of such studies as their tastes or necessities may lead them to make, is rapidly gaining favor among the people. Cornell University, in the State of New York, which is conducted on this plan, now in the third year of its existence, outnumbers any three of those colleges of the State which have been in operation for the last fifty years. The University of Michigan furnishes another example, numbering nearly five hundrd students in the undergraduate department. It may be seen more clearly by comparing the two oldest institutions in Connecticut, Harvard University and Yale College, the former having abandoned, while the latter still adheres to the old system of collegiate instruction. In 1860-61, the attendance at Yale College was five hundred and twenty-one, while the present total is five hundred and twenty-two. Harvard has in the meantime increased about two hundred.

I do not propose to enter into the discussion of this subject in this report, but will in addition to what I have already advanced, state this fact, that the number of undergraduates in all the colleges of the United States, is nearly one-half less in proportion to the population than it was thirty years ago. This would apparently indicate that the old system had failed to meet the requirements of the present age, and consequently, the necessity of its modification to a greater or less degree. Statistics are abundant showing that the people of this country do not value education less, but that in the changing conditions of society, they prefer that system which is best adapted to the new exigencies of life, and which will the best prepare men to master the problems of the times in which they live.

LIBRARY AND APPARATUS.

The library numbers only about three hundred and fifty volumes. With proper effort, donations of books could undoubtedly be obtained from the friends of the institution, and it would be, in a few years, placed in possession of a valuable collection. Of apparatus there are but two pieces in possession of

* * *

the University. An outlay of a few hundred dollars would be of great benefit to our classes in Philosophy and Chemistry, which experience the need of suitable apparatus as an aid to the acquirement of a thorough knowledge of those sciences. While we have nothing, the University of California possesses aparatus to the value of *thirty thousand dollars.*

The institution is in need of many things, the possession of which would aid very materially in elevating it to that position which its friends desire it to occupy. If a small appropriation could be obtained from the Legislature to supply its more pressing wants, and a proper representation be made by that body to Congress, it is very likely that a further donation of land could be secured, which would place the institution on a permanent footing, and make its future prosperity a matter of certainty. The degree of sucess which has attended the efforts made in its behalf during the past two years, notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered, cheers the undersigned with the hope that the University of Washington Territory, whether under his charge or that of another, will ere long be the pride of its citzens, none endeavoring to stay its onward progress, but all making a united effort to place it in that position, in which it will be an honor not only to the Territory, but to the Pacific coast.

With an acknowledgement of our obligation to a kind Providence for his support and favor in the past, and our dependence upon Him in the future, this report is respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. HALL,
President.

Seattle, W. T., Oct 1, 1871.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Honorable the Board of Regents of the University of the Territory of Washington:

I herewith submit a statement of the receipts and disbursements on account of the University since my last report. I would here state that the entire expense of the institution is more than met by the interest accruing on the money loaned.

Yours respectfully,

DAVID T. DENNY,

Treasurer W. T. University.

Seattle, Oct. 14, 1871.

To the Board of Regents of the Territorial University:

Receipts from Oct. 11, 1869, to Oct. 6, 1871, coin:

Amount on hand as per last report	$ 68	20
Received from Paul K. Hubbs	47	93
" " H. L. Yesler	208	75
" " D. W. C. Dennison	104	00
" " T. Feris	150	00
" " D. Bagley	157	50
" " N. Van Bokkelen	112	50
" " John Martin	50	00
" " J. H. Nagle	7	50
" " J. Feris	52	00
" " D. Bagley	80	00
" " King County	140	40
" " J. H. Nagle	5	66

Received from W. P. Smith	100	00
" " D. Bagley for O. B. McFadden	100	00
" " D. Bagley	100	00
" " J. H. Nagle	5	20
" " E. Richardson, to cancel note	120	00
" " Washington Mill Company	300	00
" " D. Bagley	18	00
" " C. Clymer	60	00
" " J. Feris	102	60
" " J. Feris	34	65
" " E. M. Smithers	36	00
" " T. M. Alvord	745	73
" " O. B. McFadden per D. Bagley	100	00
	$2946	62

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Treasurer's fees for 1869	$150	00
" Stewart & Andrews	4	00
" Denny & Frye		75
" J. Valentine	18	00
" Geo. E. Farley	4	75
" J. H. Hall's salary	200	00
" John Barnes	54	00
" J. Hart	12	00
" Janitor	44	75
" Robert Abrams	18	00
" J. H. Hall	231	00
" Seattle Intelligencer	36	00
" J. H. Hall, bill of March 18, 1870	225	00
" J. H. Hall, Dec. 9, 1870	236	34
" Treasurer	135	00
" E. Calvert	13	00
" S. P. Andrews	17	75
" Hall & Hill	29	75
" Seattle Intelligencer	41	00

Paid J. H. Hall	228 00
" Clerks fees, Smith case	21 00
" Sheriff "	9 00
" Remainder Treasurer's fees	15 00
" Seattle Intelligencer	15 00
" J. H. Hall	235 00
" J. H. Hall on account	32 40
" E. Calvert	10 50
" Fees in Smith case	36 00
" Seattle Intelligencer	36 00
	$2108 99
Total receipts	2946 62
Total disbursements	2108 99
	837 63
Reloaned	406 88
	430 75
Cash on hand	430 75

DAVID T. DENNY,
Treasurer W. T. University.